



ADVANCING FAITH, FAMILY AND FREEDOM

March 29, 2019

Representative
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative:

On behalf of Family Research Council (FRC) and the families we represent, I urge you to sign the discharge petition filed by Minority Whip Steve Scalise (R-LA) to force a vote on Representative Ann Wagner's (R-MO) *Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act* (H.R. 962). FRC will score signatures on the discharge petition to bring H.R. 962 to a vote in our annual scorecard.

This legislation would require health care practitioners to provide life-saving medical care to babies born alive who survive an attempted abortion, just as they would do for other babies born at the same age of development. Unanimous consent to bring this bill for a floor vote has been denied over 20 times, making it urgent to sign the discharge petition and bring this bill to end infanticide up for a vote.

When signing the *Born-Alive Infants Protection Act* in 2002, President George W. Bush said,

The Born-Alive Infants Protection Act establishes a principle in American law and American conscience: there is no right to destroy a child who has been born alive. A child who is born has intrinsic worth and must have the full protection of our laws.

Passing this definitional law in 2002 was a huge victory and has remained a principle in American law and conscience. Up to this point, however, the law has not provided the government with a way to hold abortionists accountable for complying with this principled definition of the humanity of all infants born alive.

The need for federal enforcement has become even more pressing with recent actions by states to limit or remove existing protections for born-alive infants. The passage of the *Reproductive Health Act* in New York removed explicit protections for infants who survive abortion, and several states like Illinois, Rhode Island, and Vermont are seeking to enact similar laws. Only 29 states have laws offering at least some protections for babies who survive abortion, leaving many newborn infants to fight for their lives without any legal protections.

Rep. Wagner's *Born-Alive* bill would require health care practitioners to treat babies born alive after failed abortion attempts *with the same care* they would treat a baby born at the same gestational age. It would require any violations to be reported to state and/or federal law

agencies, and contains penalties for failure to report such violations. Additionally, it includes penalties for the intentional killing of infants born alive. The bill also expressly prohibits any prosecution under this Act of the mother of a child born alive, and gives her a private right of action to seek relief if an abortionist were to kill or neglect her born-alive infant. Whether by neglect or intentional means, the killing of a baby who has been born alive is abhorrent.

Again, on behalf of Family Research Council, I strongly encourage you to sign the discharge petition requesting a vote on Rep. Wagner's *Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act* (H.R. 962) to provide the needed accountability to protect babies born alive. FRC will score in favor of signatures on the discharge petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Christensen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

David Christensen
Vice President for Government Affairs